

## Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ARA-10 EA-09 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CAB-05

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-02 FAA-00 SCA-01 /132 W

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O 061437Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8174

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS USUN 2764

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, IS, UG

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: AMIN MESSAGE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JULY 5 LETTER FROM UGANDAN CHARGE  
D'AFFAIRES TO PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL, ENCLOSING TEXT  
OF JULY 4 LETTER FROM UGANDAN PRESIDENT. LETTER AND  
ENCLOSURE HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED AS SECURITY COUNCIL DOCUMENT.

QUOTE

LETTER DATED 5 JULY 1976 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.,  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UGNADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO TRANSMIT TO YOU THE ENCLOSED MESSAGE  
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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, HIS EXCELLENCY  
AL-HAJJI FIELD-MARSHAL DR. IDI AMIN DADA, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.,  
BRINGING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT THAT  
OCCURRED AT ENTEBBA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THE NIGHT OF

3-4 JULY 1976.

I SHOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD CIRCULATE THE TEXT AS A  
DOCUMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

(SIGNED) L.K. MWANGAGUHUNGA  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.

ANNEX

MESSAGE DATED 4 JULY 1976 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, CURRENT CHAIRMAN  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY,  
PORT LOUIS,  
MAURITIUS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL,  
NEW YORK

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
UNITED NATIONS,  
NEW YORK.

I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR URGENT ATTENTION THE MOST SERIOUS  
INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT ENTEBBA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THE  
NIGHT OF 3-4 JULY 1976.

AT 2120 GMT, THREE ZIONIST ISRAEL TRANSPORT PLANES LANDED BY  
SURPRISE AND WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY FROM THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT  
AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. SOON AFTER LANDING THEY  
PROCEEDED STRAIGHT TO THE OLD AIRPORT BUILDING, WHERE THE  
HOSTAGES AND THE CREW OF THE FRENCH AIRBUS WHICH HAD BEEN  
HIJACKED IN FLIGHT BETWEEN TEL AVIV AND PARIS WERE BEING HELD BY  
PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS. TWO MILITARY JEEPS DROVE OUT OF THE  
AIRCRAFT AND THE INVADERS, USING MACHINE-GUNS AND BAZOOKAS,  
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STATED SHOOTING INDISCRIMINATELY AT THE AIRPORT BUILDING AND  
AT UGANDAN SOLDIERS WHO HAD SURROUNDED THE BUILDING AT A DISTANCE  
OF 200 METRES AND WHO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS LAID  
DOWN BY THE HIJACKERS OF THE FRENCH PLANE, WERE ARMED ONLY  
WITH LIGHT ARMS.

THE ISRAELI INVADERS QUICKLY MOUNTED AN ATTACK ON THE HIJACKERS,  
KILLING SEVEN OF THEM AND SOME HOSTAGES, AS WELL AS A  
NUMBER OF UGANDAN SOLDIERS, AND INJURING MANY OTHERS. THE  
ISRAELI INVADERS ALSO BLASTED THE OLD AIRPORT BUILDING,  
CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE AND DESTROYING A NUMBER OF UGANDAN  
AIRCRAFT, WHICH WERE PARKED NEARBY, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT.

YOU MAY WISH TO RECALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE SITUATION OF THE AIRCRAFT THAT EXISTED SINCE THE HIJACKING DRAMA CAME TO UGANDA AT 4:15 A.M. ON 28 JUNE, MOST NOTABLE OF WHICH WAS THAT THE AIRCRAFT HAD FUEL FOR ONLY FIFTEEN MORE MINUTES. ON BEING CONTACTED, I ALLOWED THE AIRCRAFT TO LAND AT ENTEBBE ON HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. AFTER THE LANDING, I TOOK THE INITIATIVE, AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU), TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. MY MAIN INTEREST ALL ALONG WAS TO SAVE THE LIVES OF SOME 275 PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES WHICH WERE AT STAKE. TO THAT END, I DIRECTED THAT THE PLANE BE GUARDED PROPERLY WHILE I NEGOTIATED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PFLP WHO WERE THE HIJACKERS OF THE PLANE.

MY FIRST SUCCESS WAS TO HAVE THE HOSTAGES REMOVED FROM THE AIRCRAFT INTO THE AIRPORT BUILDING, A PROCESS WHICH WAS ACHIEVED AFTER THE HIJACKERS HAD INSISTED FIRST OF ALL ON PLACING EXPLOSIVES ROUND THE BUILDING BEFORE BRINGING THE AEROPLANE NEARBY SO AS TO ENABLE THEIR HOSTAGES TO BE SECURELY TRANSPORTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT TO THE BUILDING. AS WE HAVE CLEARLY STATED IN VARIOUS COMMUNIQUEES ON THE HIJACKING, THE UGANDA ARMED FORCES WERE NOT ALLOWED BY THE HIJACKERS TO GO NEAR THE AIRPORT BUILDING. THIS WAS PART OF THE BARGAIN. HOWEVER, ONCE THEY WERE IN THE AIRPORT BUILDING, UNDER MY DIRECTIVES, MANY FACILITIES, SUCH AS MEDICAL AND FOOD SUPPLIES AND OTHER WELFARE TREATMENT WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HOSTAGES, WHILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HIJACKERS CONTINUED.

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ON 30 JUNE 1976, THE PFLP ACCEPTED MY REQUEST TO RELEASE 47 HOSTAGES, INCLUDING OLD AND SICK PEOPLE AND SOME CHILDREN. ON 1 JULY 1976, WHICH WAS THE FIRST DEADLINE SET BY THE HIJACKERS, I WAS NOT ONLY ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO 4 JULY, THAT IS, TODAY, BUT I WAS ALSO ABLE TO MAKE THEM AGREE TO THE RELEASE OF ANOTHER 100 HOSTAGES WHO WERE NATIONALS OF STATES OTHER THAN ISRAEL. IN ALL THESE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS I KEPT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA FULLY INFORMED AND ALSO THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA WHO, IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN OF THE ARAB LEAGUE AMBASSADORS IN UGANDA, HAD BEEN APPOINTED BY THE HIJACKERS TO BE THEIR SPOKESMAN. ON THAT SAME DATE (1 JULY ), THE HIJACKERS GAVE THEIR DEMANDS, WHICH WERE WIDELY PUBLICIZED AND TRANSMITTED TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AS THE DEMANDS WERE ENTIRELY FOR THE RELEASE OF A NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN WEST GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE AND KENYA, AS WELL AS ISRAEL, IN ALL TOTALLING 53. ON 2 JULY 1976, I HAD TO GO TO PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, TO HAND OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OAU AT THE THIRTEENTH SUMMIT OF OAU HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF ADDRESSING MY COLLEAGUES OF THE OAU ON THE SUBJECT OF THE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS THAT I WAS MAKING TO HAVE THE HOSTAGES AND THE FRENCH AIRLINER RELEASED.

I HAD TO RETURN TO UGANDA IN TIME FOR THE NEW DEADLINE OF 4 JULY, MADE BY THE HIJACKERS.

UPON MY RETURN, I QUICKLY RE-ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH ALL PERSONS CONCERNED. I SPOKE TO THE HOSTAGES AND ASSURED THEM OF MY EFFORTS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SAVE THEIR LIVES. THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES THEMSELVES WERE VERY HAPPY WITH WHAT I WAS DOING, WHICH IS PARTLY WHY, ON 3 JULY, THEY ISSUED A STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION FOR MY EFFORTS. THEY ALSO MADE AN APPEAL TO THEIR GOVERNMENT TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE HIJACKERS SO THAT THEIR LIVES WOULD BE SAVED. AFTER THE BRIEF MEETING WITH THE HOSTAGES, I GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THROUGH MY FOREIGN OFFICE TO CHECK ON WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY RESPONSE FROM HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ON THE SUBJECT OF THE HIJACKERS' DEMANDS. AS THE EXTENDED DEADLINE WAS ONLY SOME 12 HOURS AWAY, WHILE WAITING FOR THE INFORMATION, I CONTINUED MY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PFLP COMMANDOS. THIS IS THE TIME WHEN ISRAELI INVADING FORCES ARRIVED AT ENTEBBE.

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I SHOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION SOME ASPECTS OF THE ISRAELI INVASION SHOWING THAT IT HAD BEEN WELL PLANNED AND REHEARSED WITH THE FULL COLLABORATION OF SOME OTHER COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY CONFIRMED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, THE ZIONIST ISRAELI PLAN TO INVADE ENTEBBA WAS DECIDED UPON ON THURSDAY, 1 JULY. THIS DECISION WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE KENYA AUTHORITIES, WHOSE CONSENT AND ASSISTANCE IN THE OPERATION WAS IMMEDIATELY OBTAINED.

THIS COLLABORATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELI PLANES ON THEIR WAY TO AND FROM UGANDA STOPPED AT NAIROBI WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, A MOBILE OPERATING THEATRE WAS SET UP TO TAKE CARE OF THE INVADERS' CASUALTIES. IT IS MOST DISTURBING AND DISHEARTENING TO US IN UGANDA THAT SUCH A BLATANT AND OPEN INVASION OF OUR COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MOUNTED BY THE ZIONISTS WITH THE CLOSE COLLABORATION OF KENYA, A NEIGHBOURING SISTER STATE WHICH IS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE OAU AND THE UNITED NATIONS. FURTHER ASPECTS OF THIS PLOT TO INVADE UGANDA HAVE BEEN REVEALED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, NOTABLY THE VOICE OF AMERICA - WHICH ANNOUNCED THE INVASION BARELY TWO HOURS AFTER IT HAD BEEN MOUNTED - AND BY THE LEADING BRITISH SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS, WHICH ARE CARRYING ON THEIR FRONT PAGES THE DETAILS OF THE OPERATION. IT IS FURTHER REPORTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL IS TODAY, 4 JULY, MAKING DIRECT REPORTS ON THE INVASION TO THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE AND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY. THESE ARE REPORTS CLEARLY REVEALING WELL PLANNED INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN A PLOT TO VIOLATE AND ABUSE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UGANDA. THE HIJACKING INCIDENT, IN WHICH UGANDA WAS ACCIDENTALLY INVOLVED AND ON WHICH I PERSONALLY SPENT

MANY SLEEPLESS DAYS, HAS THUS ENDED BY INNOCENT  
UGANDANS LOSING THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY ASIDE FROM THE  
THOUSANDS OF SHILLINGS SPENT ON LOOKING AFTER THE HOSTAGES ON  
HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING, I WISH TO IMPRESS UPON THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT:

1. UGANDA HAS BEEN AGGRESSED BY ISRAEL WITH THE CLOSE  
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COLLABORATION OF SOME STATES, INCLUDING KENYA, A SISTER  
NEIGHBOURING STATE;

2. THE AGGRESSORS HAVE KILLED A NUMBER OF UGANDANS, INJURED  
MANY OTHERS AND DAMAGED A LOT OF PROPERTY, THE TOTAL COST  
OF WHICH IS BEING ASSESSED;

3. IT IS THE INTENTION OF MY GOVERNMENT TO CLAIM COMPENSATION  
ARISING FROM THIS AGGRESSION.

I REQUEST THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR WHICH YOU  
ARE THE RESPECTIVE SPOKESMEN, BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THIS  
INCIDENT AND THAT ISRAEL BE CONDEMNED IN THE STRONGEST  
POSSIBLE TERMS FOR THE AGGRESSION. IN THE MEANTIME, UGANDA  
RESERVES HER RIGHT TO RETALIATE IN WHATEVER WAY SHE CAN TO  
REDRESS THE AGGRESSION AGAINST HER.

HIGHEST CONSIDERATIONS,

(SIGNED) AL-HAJJI FIELD-MARSHAL DR. IDI AMIN DADA,  
V.C., D.S.O., M.C.,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

UNQUOTE  
BENNETT

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 15 SEP 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, HOSTAGES, RESCUE OPERATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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